

Subject: Your Labor Day Neighborhoods First Newsletter

From: Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter <updates@11thdistrict.com>

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To: lisa@mediadistrict.org

Council District 11

Labor Day 2017

Welcome to a special Labor Day edition of Mike Bonin's "Neighborhoods First Newsletter!" As we celebrate with our families this weekend, let's not forget the important contributions of working men and women throughout Los Angeles and the country.

IN THIS ISSUE: We celebrate nearly 1,000 trees being distributed as part of Mike's district-wide series of Second Inauguration Tree Giveaways, neighborhoods celebrate National Night Out, we mark the first anniversary of a groundbreaking settlement stopping LAX expansion and allowing LAX modernization, and a whole lot more... **but first**, please read this month's Neighborhoods First Profile about a healthcare leader from Mar Vista who traveled across the country to protect the Affordable Care Act, part of her life's work to provide health access to underserved communities and people living with disabilities.

You can find out more [about Mike](#), [meet your CD11 staff](#) and get updates from the Westside on our website at www.11thdistrict.com. And remember to [like Mike's Facebook page](#) to see the latest news about your neighborhood.

 **Neighborhoods_First_Profile_NEW.jpg**

Anastasia Bacigalupo, Westside Center for Independent Living

For as long as she can remember, Anastasia Bacigalupo has dedicated herself to caring for those who are often overlooked or underserved. For the past two years, she has served as Executive Director of the of Westside Center for Independent Living, where she and her team provide services and lead advocacy campaigns for people living with disabilities. This summer she sprang into action to protect the Affordable Care Act, trekking to Arizona and Washington D.C. to stand up for all Americans' right to care.

 **Sept2017Graphics.jpg**

Q. How did you first get involved in healthcare and independent living advocacy

It's hard to know when really I first got involved with both. Health care is so important and vital to all of us being able to live independently in our community--they are inextricably linked. I have always been involved in health care advocacy for underserved and underrepresented groups--LGBTQIA, women, minorities, the disabled, veterans, older adults, and undocumented adults and children.

In terms of independent living, I have family members with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. It was ingrained from an early age that having a

disability is just a part of life and living. People still go to school, work, get married, have babies and live life--all the while living with their disabilities. In my career, I am lucky that I landed in a field where I advocate for systemic change on many levels--local, county, state and national--for the betterment of programs and services for all.

Q. Tell us a little about the services and advocacy WCIL provides.

Westside Center for Independent Living or WCIL is a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services. WCIL employs people with disabilities at all levels which includes management and administration of the agency. WCIL is dedicated to supporting people with disabilities as well as older adults achieve and maintain self-directed and community based independent lives. WCIL's clients, known as members, are a diverse group of people of all ages and from all ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. WCIL works with people living with any type of disability including but not limited to: intellectual, developmental, hearing, learning, mobility, physical, mental health, substance abuse, traumatic brain injury and visual. WCIL's main office is in Mar Vista and we have satellite offices in Redondo Beach, Santa Monica and West Hollywood.

**Q. What has the Affordable Care Act (ACA) meant for WCIL members?
Why was it so important to fight for its protection?**

The ACA has meant the difference between thriving independently in our communities and facing forced institutionalization. People with disabilities and older adults are often reliant on the many levels of care covered by the ACA so that they may be able to get an education, work and just generally enjoy living independently. The reason that many disability advocates are willing to fight for its protection is that it is a lifeline for so many disabled Americans and older Americans. Lower healthcare costs allow people to receive healthcare coverage

for the first time. It has also meant that people are getting preventive care before they need expensive emergency room services.

Q. Tell us about your experience traveling across the country to fight the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

My experience really began with being very frustrated and angry. As the new administration in Washington, DC, took office, they made it clear that the ACA was on their target list. In response, we did what we could here locally: holding events like press conferences, sending letters to our Congressional representatives and doing everything we could to educate our community about the devastating impact of ACA repeal/replace. But being here in Los Angeles, I felt very helpless as I watched all of the footage Senators from other states in session waging war on the ACA. Then something miraculous happened: I saw a group of ADAPT activists protest Senator McConnell's office, screaming that they'd rather go to jail than lose their healthcare. In that second, I knew I would be heading out of state to do whatever I could to prevent the repeal of the ACA.

I immediately began emailing and Facebooking everyone I knew what was connected with ADAPT. From there I connected with the Arizona ADAPT chapter, who welcomed the assistance from Los Angeles and started pulling together resources to bring Angelenos to Phoenix. We arrived in Phoenix on Senator Jeff Flake's doorstep early July 5th and we were invited to meet with his staff in his conference room. That's where we began a long day of trying to convince Senator Flake and his staff that he should vote against the ACA repeal/replace. We were not successful but we continued to protest and chant, ultimately being arrested by police. We were later released after we were charged. It would be the first arrest of my life and I felt two things succinctly: proud to take a stand for my beliefs and aware of the privilege of being arrested without incident or injury because I was white. The next opportunity came a couple of weeks later by accident during the annual Independent Living conference in Washington, DC. It was a perfect storm of disabled activists descending on the Capitol and the Senate republicans really gearing up for the

destruction of the ACA. So, on July 25th, we met in the atrium of the Hart Senate Building and began chanting. The chanting was so loud that the Senators and their staff started coming out of their offices. There I was with almost all of the ADAPT members who had occupied Senator McConnell's office and I thought I might just burst. We continued to chant until one by one we were arrested and processed. While we were waiting Senator Tammy Duckworth (disabled herself) came down to make sure that the Capitol Police were professional--they were and it was great to be acknowledged for what we were doing by a senator.

A few days later, Senator McCain famously turned his thumb down and ended the Senate Republican's latest attempt to repeal and replace the ACA. To arrive at that moment made it all worth it--the frustration, travel, arrests, fines--to save the ACA and health care for all disabled Americans and older Americans.

You can learn more about the Westside Center for Independent Living [here](#).

 Neighborhood_News_REVISE.jpg

Making the 11th District 1,000 Trees Greener

 **Sept2017Graphics8.jpg**

Mike decided to do something different to celebrate his second term inauguration this summer. Instead of a ceremony or big party, our office partnered with the wonderful organization [citypLAnts](#) to distribute nearly 1,000 free shade trees at nine Farmer's Markets across the district during July and August. Mike and our team had the opportunity to meet with hundreds of neighbors who stopped by to pick up a tree or just say hi. These moments were priceless, and we have the pictures to prove it! Thank you to everyone who came out to help build a greener, more connected 11th District.

Venice: Rally Against Racism

 **Mike_In_Venice.jpg**

Mike joined thousands of people to march against hate in the "Alt-Right Isn't All Right" protest on the Boardwalk, following the tragic events in Charlottesville,

NC that saw a young woman killed because of bigotry and violence. The 11th District is a diverse and inclusive community, and we will always stand united against hate.

During his remarks, Mike told the crowd that, “We must remember that it is easier to object to racism than it is to dismantle it. Today, armed with placards and megaphones, we objected. But to dismantle the systemic institutional racism in our society we need a different tool--a mirror. We need to hold up a mirror to our culture, to our institutions, and especially to ourselves. Particularly for people who look like me, we need to look at where we live and how we live and identify the institutional racism in this country. We need to ask how we perpetuate it and how we benefit from it. And then we need to work to change it.”

Pacific Palisades: Appreciating Law Enforcement with the Chabad

 Sept2017Graphics3.jpg

Mike joined the [Chabad of Pacific Palisades](#) at their annual Community Gratitude Picnic to thank local law enforcement for their service. Kudos to everyone involved in this wonderful event that celebrates all those women and men from the Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Angeles Police Department who dedicate their lives to keep our neighborhoods safe!

West LA: First/Last Mile Improvements Get Rolling

 Sept2017Graphics10.jpg

Improving the “First/Last Mile” experience along the Expo Line is an essential strategy for enhancing the experience of transit users and making it easier for people to Go Metro to get around the Westside. Mike helped City crews install bike racks as part of the Expo/Bundy First-Last Mile Project in West LA. The project will ultimately include 24 curb extensions, 58 access ramps, 77 bike racks, 188 trees, wayfinding signs, and a new landscaped median. We are proud to bring this improvement to West LA!

Mar Vista: New Life for Old Fire Station 62

 Sept2017Graphics6.jpg

Mike joined Mar Vista neighbors for a BBQ to celebrate a big step forward in efforts by Friends of Historic Fire Station 62 to convert Old Fire Station 62 into a

community center for Mar Vista. A few weeks ago, the City Council gave the nonprofit a lease for the property. At the BBQ, Mike presented a certificate to Albert Olson who chairs Friends of Historic FS 62 and thanked board members for their work to reach this important milestone. The lease paves the way for fundraising efforts to rehabilitate the building--a longtime dream of many.

Playa del Rey: Safe Streets Task Force Appointed

 Sept2017Graphics11.jpg

[Mike named a 20-member community panel](#) to evaluate recent road safety projects in Playa del Rey and make recommendations to the City on how best to improve safety on the streets of the neighborhood. The panel was carefully selected and represents a balance between opponents and supporters of recent road safety projects. It includes local residents, business owners and commuters. The task force began its work this month with the assistance of a professional facilitator and will have 90 days to make recommendations to the public, to our office and to LADOT on whether to keep, remove or alter changes made to several local roads in recent months.


The panel's recommendations will be featured at an open house and online, where the public will be able to comment, and the [Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa](#) will be asked to review the recommendations. Thanks to the task force members for their service and commitment to dialogue.

National Night Out a Success

 Sept2017Graphics12.jpg

Mike joined hundreds of Westside neighbors to celebrate National Night Out at events in West LA and Playa Vista. Millions of people across the country participate every year in National Night Out, which is observed annually on the first Tuesday in August to promote police-community partnerships.

Happy First Anniversary to the Westchester Triangle Farmers Market

 FINAL_Mike_with_Cake_.jpg

In its first year, the [Westchester Triangle Farmers Market](#) has revitalized an underused corner of the neighborhood. Every Sunday at 9:00am at 6200 West 87th Street, families, farmers and foodies meet up to stock up for the week on organic produce and quality time with neighbors. Bring a bag and check it out.

Street Resurfacing Continues through 11th District

 Sept2017Graphics14.jpg

Neighborhood streets across the district continue to get long overdue makeovers from the [City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services](#)—a top priority for Mike and every driver who’s had to dodge a pothole on their daily commute. This month, city crews resurfaced Chastain Parkway in Pacific Palisades among other streets across the district.

Brentwood: Sensible Food Truck Regulation

 Sept2017Graphics15.jpg

Mike won a victory for Brentwood neighbors, who had expressed growing concern over food trucks causing traffic accidents, reducing driver visibility and creating quality of life issues such as property damage and littering. After hearing these concerns, he led the City Council in adopting more sensible regulations that escalate fines on food trucks operating in residential areas for extended periods of time.

The new regulations prohibit food trucks from parking at any residential location for a period that exceeds 30 minutes, and also prohibits them from parking within two blocks they had had been parked at said residential location within a four-hour period. Further, a food truck moving out of a location momentarily and then returning within the four-hour limitation does not reset the clock; the time and distance requirements still apply. Failure to comply will be treated as separate and distinct offenses and each subsequent violation will be subject to escalating parking penalties of \$73 for a first violation, \$123 for the second violation, and \$173 for the third. Thank you to the Brentwood neighbors who raised their voice on this issue and came to City Hall to support the new ordinance.

Playa Vista: Fashion for a Cause in Playa Vista

 Sept2017Graphics16.jpg

Playa Vista families and businesses launched the first annual Silicon Beach Community Fashion Show, to raise funds for [The Harvest Home](#), which supports homeless pregnant women and their children by providing essential supportive services and housing. Families strutted their stuff to raise money, while enjoying snacks and games. Congrats to [Club Momme](#) and their partners for kicking off this party with a purpose!

Del Rey: Preventing Homelessness One Family at a Time

 FINAL_Ana_Cruz.jpg

Mike joined with Ana Cruz and her neighbors and friends to call on the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles to stop its efforts to evict her and her three children. She is a survivor of domestic violence, whose husband failed to pay back rent to HACLA, and now she is being threatened with eviction and huge rent hikes. Mike was proud to join with her, residents of the Mar Vista Gardens community and members of [People Organized for Westside Renewal \(POWER\)](#).

We cannot fulfill our promises to end homelessness and protect immigrant families if we allow Ana and her children to be evicted.

Pacific Palisades: Teaming Up to Clean Catch Basins

 Sept2017Graphics17.jpg

Teamwork paid off in Pacific Palisades this month, as our office worked with

homeowners and City departments on a major effort to clean up clogged catch basins. A coordinated multi-agency effort produced amazing results.

Brentwood: Addressing Robberies with LAPD

 Sept2017Graphics18.jpg

Our office is working with LAPD to immediately address a series of robberies and thefts in the Brentwood area. While the recent crimes committed in Brentwood do not represent a dramatic statistical increase in crime in the community, this the recent trend not acceptable and we are working with LAPD to ensure that neighbors are safe. We are increasing 911 responsiveness and LAPD patrols, and will continue to work with residents to keep Brentwood safe.

West LA: Movies (and Ice Cream!) on the Lawn

 Sept2017Graphics19.jpg

We marked the end of this year's West Los Angeles Movies on the Lawn series with free ice cream for the kids. For nine years, CD11 has co-sponsored the popular free summer movie screenings at Stoner Park. For nearly a decade, the popular program has provided summer fun for thousands of families.

Mike was proud to co-sponsor this year's series in conjunction with [West Los Angeles/Sawtelle Neighborhood Council](#) and [West Los Angeles Community Coalition](#).

Mar Vista: Fast-Tracking Emergency Vehicle Access

 Sept2017Graphics20.jpg

As part of the [Mar Vista Great Streets Initiative](#), our office and LADOT are working with LAFD to install transponders on fire trucks that would trigger green lights at traffic signals along Venice Boulevard and help them move through the corridor more quickly. Improved emergency vehicle access, along with safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists, is a benefit of the improvements that make Mar Vista a better place to live, work and shop.

Venice: VJAMM Memorial Committee Honored

 Sept2017Graphics21.jpg

Mike honored the dedicated men and women who brought the [Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument](#) to life earlier this year. The monument—which was dedicated in April after nearly a decade of tireless work by the Venice Peace & Freedom Party, artists, teacher Phyllis Hayashibara, former internees and a new generation of students—commemorates the more than 1,000 Americans of Japanese descent who were forcibly removed from the Westside and taken to the Manzanar internment camp during World War II.

This dark time in our nation’s history—and in the history of the Westside—needs to be memorialized and taught so that future generations are reminded to be vigilant about defending our rights, including those of our friends and neighbors. Let us remember the sacrifice of every internee by heeding the words etched on this monument: “that the powers of government shall never again perpetrate an injustice against any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race or religion.”

Del Rey: Providence St. John’s Open House in Del Rey

 Sept2017Graphics22.jpg

Mike welcomed [Providence St. John's](#) to Del Rey at their community open house, where neighbors gathered to check out the new 30,000 square foot facility which brings first-rate healthcare services such as pediatrics, OB/GYN and cardiology. We're grateful for the services that Providence St. John's doctors, nurses and staff are bringing to the neighborhood!

Playa del Rey: New Stop Sign in The Jungle

 FINAL_Stop_Sign.jpg

At the request of neighbors in Playa del Rey's "Jungle" neighborhood, LADOT installed partial stop sign control for northbound traffic on Trolleyway at Culver Boulevard. This improved signage and striping is a direct result of community input from Lucy Han and others who reached out to our office. Thanks for speaking up!

Pacific Palisades: Palisades Village Hard Hat Tour

 Sept2017Graphics24.jpg

Construction at [Palisades Village](#) is coming along, and we got a sneak peek! The project, which will include retail, dining, open space and increased parking, is slated to open next summer.

Mar Vista: Centinela Tree Replacement

 Sept2017Graphics31.jpg

This month the Board of Public Works approved new sidewalks and a 2-to-1 tree replacement plan on the 3600-3700 blocks of Centinela Ave. Mike listened to the [Mar Vista Green Committee](#) and stakeholders who wanted to preserve some of the mature tree canopy. His deputies met with City staff and identified four out of 15 mature trees that will be spared from removal. There will also be new trees and tree wells in front of Mitsuwa Marketplace.

 Combating_Homelessness_REVISE_NEW.jpg

Homeless Connect Days in Westchester's Manchester Square

 Sept2017Graphics25.jpg

Finding housing and services for Los Angeles' growing homeless population is a top priority for the City of Los Angeles, and we are glad Los Angeles World Airports is a partner in the effort. Mike's office participated in the third Homeless Connect Day in Manchester Square, where representatives from the City, County, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Department of Motor Vehicles, the [Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa](#) and homeless service providers created a one-stop model to connect homeless individuals and families with critical services for pathways to housing.

Working Together to End Homelessness

 Sept2017Graphics26.jpg

This year, voters led with compassion in passing both Measures HHH and H to allocate tax revenue to provide housing and services to combat our homelessness crisis, which tragically grew by 23% from 2016-2017. The City and County are working closely together to coordinate smart deployment of these resources, as Los Angeles County [Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas announced in a press conference](#) last week with City officials.

Permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance Hearings

As part of our citywide strategy to combat the homelessness crisis, the Department of City Planning has [drafted a Permanent Supportive Housing \(PSH\) ordinance](#). If adopted, it would establish a set of standardized criteria and definitions for PSH and remove regulatory barriers that impair the construction of new supportive housing. Two staff public hearings have been scheduled for this ordinance and to obtain stakeholder input.

The first will take place on Monday, September 25th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, First Floor Public Meeting Room 1A, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA 91401. The second staff public hearing will take place on Thursday, September 28th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 N. Spring St. Community workshops will be hosted throughout September. Hope to see you there!

 Transportation_REVISE.jpg

Lincoln Blvd. Mobility Project

 Sept2017Graphics27.jpg


The City is proceeding with environmental analysis on an important traffic-busting and safety-enhancing project for Lincoln Boulevard. The “Lincoln Boulevard Bridge Enhancement Project” would remove the existing bottleneck on Lincoln between Fiji Way and Jefferson Boulevard, adding a traffic lane for automobiles, sidewalks for pedestrians, and a bike lane. Specific highlights of the enhancement include:

- Widening the bridge to add an additional Southbound lane for cars;
- Adding sidewalks on both sides of the street, where none exist today;
- Adding space for bike lanes in both directions and create additional space for a potential future transit lane to create additional multi-modal options.

The proposed project would increase vehicular capacity. Despite some social media misinformation, there are no lane reductions. It creates more and safer

lanes for all modes of traffic: cars, bikes, pedestrians and buses. The environmental analysis is just beginning, and there be plenty of public hearings before any decisions are made.

Mapping Our Mobility Future

 Metro_Map.jpg

Metro's team over at [The Source](#) got out their crystal ball (or more likely the Measure M expenditure plan) and put together [this great map](#) of what LA County's transit map will look like when the Olympics and Paralympics arrive in 2028. Many thanks again to the nearly 70% of voters who enthusiastically said

yes to investing in LA's roads, buses and rail lines.

 LAX_Update_REVISE.jpg

Happy Anniversary: LAX Settlement

 Sept2017Graphics28.jpg

One year ago this week we won a major, historic victory for Westchester and Playa del Rey: the [City Council approved a landmark agreement with LAX that stopped airport expansion into our neighborhood](#)s. Since then, LAX has been working hard to fulfill the terms of the settlement, which allows us to get a world class-class airport that is a first-class neighbor. Our hats remain off to neighborhood advocates like the [Alliance for Regional Solutions to Airport Congestion](#), which tirelessly negotiated this settlement.

The Future of LAX

 [APM_Video_Still.png](#)

Excitement is building for the Automated People Mover that will finally connect LAX to LA's public transit system, reduce congestion in the central terminal area and create an infinitely smoother experience for passengers flying in and out of the airport. For a sneak peek, check out [this newly released video](#) from LAWA. 2023 can't come soon enough!

 [Planning_REVISE.jpg](#)

Big New Park for West LA

 FINAL_11770_Wilshire.jpg

Creating more open space in West Los Angeles is a top priority for Mike, which is why our office looks for every opportunity to expand parkland as neighborhoods grow.

Mike and neighborhood leaders negotiated to have a one-acre park included in the planned Landmark Apartments at 11770 Wilshire Blvd., which advanced through the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee this month. The park--double the size originally proposed--will include shade trees, seating, raised planters and pedestrian pathways. The project will also contribute \$625,000 to the City's affordable housing trust fund. That's what we call a win: more park space, hundreds of new housing units and affordable housing funds replacing the current 17-story office tower and long-vacant grocery store left the site underutilized for years.

 Legislation_REVISE.jpg

Find Out More About the City Council's Work to Put Neighborhoods First

Linkage Fee for Affordable Housing

 Sept2017Graphics32.jpg

In a big step to preserve and create affordable housing in Los Angeles, the council's planning committee approved an affordable housing "linkage fee," a fee on development to replenish the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. We're in the midst of a housing crisis and the linkage fee will help us transition to a more affordable, inclusive vision of Los Angeles that supports thriving families and neighborhoods.

The linkage passed the Planning and Land Use Management Committee unanimously and now heads to the full City Council for a vote.

Follow the Sun to Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

 Sept2017Graphics7.jpg

The City Council unanimously approved bringing the Olympic and Paralympic Games back to LA in 2028, with a contract that improves near- and long-term financial benefits to the city from the International Olympic Committee. With the

new agreement, LA 2028 will invest up to \$160 million to increase participation and access to youth sports programs in the City of Los Angeles in the years leading up to the games. Los Angeles will also get a greater share of a games surplus revenue and an IOC contribution of \$2 billion. Kudos to Mayor Garcetti and LA 2028 on winning this historic investment and allowing a new generation of Angelenos to experience the thrill of hosting the games.

Council Approves Indigenous Peoples Day

 **FINAL_Indigenous_Peoples_Day.jpg**

To more accurately tell the story of North America's early history, the City Council this month removed Columbus Day as an official City holiday and created Indigenous Peoples Day, which will be recognized on the second Monday of every October. The Council also dedicated October 12th of each year as Italian American Heritage Day in the City of Los Angeles, to recognize the contributions of Italian Americans to the history and culture of Los Angeles. During his comments in council, Mike said:

"I am very proud to be the great grandson of immigrants from Popoli, Italy--Paolo and Elizabetta, who left their homes, endured tragedy, made a life for themselves in a foreign land, and raised four children, including my grandfather, who worked his way through Harvard College and Harvard Law School as a barber, and later became a state lawmaker and a judge.

Celebrating Columbus does not honor their memory or my heritage; it besmirches and diminishes it. My great grandparents came here to build and not to destroy, to earn and not to steal.

“Generations of immigrants came to this country to build a better life for their next generation. Columbus, on the other hand, ushered in an era of conquest and enslavement, massacre and genocide. This gesture of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day is a very small step in apologizing and in making amends.”

Fighting for LAFD Helicopter Fleet Resources

 **Sept2017Graphics30.jpg**

The brave men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department are some of the most committed public servants in Los Angeles. Mike is fighting hard to get them—and the 11th District neighborhoods they serve—the resources they deserve to do their jobs effectively and safely when an emergency hits. At the LAFD command post for the Mandeville Canyon brush fire earlier this year, Mike was dismayed to learn that half of the helicopters in our LAFD fleet were grounded that day because of a maintenance backlog. He immediately sprung into action to develop solutions to this unacceptable situation. His recommendations—which are working their way through the City Council—include:

- Identifying funding to hire additional helicopter mechanics, implement new systems and provide additional work shifts to expedite the backlog of critical maintenance work.
- Increasing the size of the LAFD fleet by one helicopter, going from the current six, to a total of seven aircraft.
- Creating a City Aviation Administrator position, filled by a seasoned expert with extensive helicopter industry and fleet maintenance experience. This high-level position would be empowered to cut through government red tape, streamline approvals, and do whatever is necessary to keep the City's helicopter fleet in the air.

Last month, the LAFD put into service a brand new \$17.5 million dollar water dropping helicopter with a 475-gallon capacity--an increase in capacity over the 370-gallon helicopter it replaced. Additionally, beginning a few weeks ago and continuing through the remainder of the year, the LAFD has activated a 2,600-gallon helitanker at Van Nuys Airport for immediate response and to augment the existing fleet.

The La Tuna fire burning today in the Verdugo Mountains underscores the need to keep our helicopter fleet in a constant state of readiness. Our thanks go out to the families with homes near the fire and the hundreds of LAFD personnel keeping them safe.

Increasing Neighborhood Policing

Sept2017Graphics29.jpg

Mike was glad to learn from LAPD that crime is dropping in the department's Pacific Area, which includes the southern portion of our district. You can read the Argonaut's coverage [here](#).

The news reinforces Mike's public safety plan, called the "[Back to Basic Car](#)"

plan. This 10-point plan calls for the department to get more officers from behind the desks and back onto patrol. Currently, our neighborhoods are allocated police resources largely based on Citywide patrol boundary maps that haven't been updated in more than 20 years. One of the 10 points of Mike's plan seeks to initiate a reboundary study of the LAPD's Basic Car Plan, which is the system that designates neighborhood policing areas, guides the regular assignment of patrol cars, and assigns neighborhoods of responsibility to Senior Lead Officers.

Earlier this month, at Mike's urging, the City Council [appropriated \\$224,000 in funding](#) for a study to redraw these maps. His goal for this study is to create smaller patrol areas that yield additional officers and better conform to identifiable community boundaries, with the objective of tailoring police services to better meet the needs of our unique neighborhoods, and the smaller sub-neighborhoods contained within. While this larger study is being prepared, Mike will continue to demand increased police deployment and additional patrol presence in our neighborhoods.

RecycLA

Mike is raising serious concerns about and objections to implementation of RecycLA, the city's new waste hauling franchise system. The program is a significant and innovative effort to move us closer to achieving "zero waste," and to improve quality of life in our neighborhoods through pioneering waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery programs. But the program's implementation has been ridiculously flawed, as we've heard from countless calls from 11th District residents, businesses, apartments and homeowners associations.

Mike has reached out to Los Angeles Department of Sanitation to express outrage over a lack of advanced notification, missed pick-ups, and significant or miscalculated rate increases--and to demand solutions. The Council's Energy & Environment Committee is investigating the matter, and Mike will continue to advocate on this issue and will report back throughout the rollout as

improvements are hopefully made. In the meantime, you can find information about RecycLA [here](#).

 [Before_You_Go_REVISE.jpg](#)

New Roads to Second Chances

Kudos to Mayor Garcetti's [New Roads, Second Chances Transitional Work Program](#), which has already placed 264 formerly incarcerated Angelenos in careers to help get their lives back on track. This program, which has been embraced by the private and nonprofit sectors, is changing lives and rebuilding communities.

Purposeful Aging Survey

Don't forget to take the City of Los Angeles' Purposeful Aging survey! With the older adult population doubling to more than 2.2 million people by 2030, the City has a road map for the implementation of a multi-year initiative to improve the lives of older adults by making City services and programs more age friendly. [Share your ideas here.](#)

Metro Bike Share Launches in Venice Next Week!

Join Mike and Metro on September 7 in a celebration and beach ride to celebrate the expansion of Metro's Bike Share to the Westside. The event will culminate with a one-way bike ride from Windward Plaza to the Navy & Ocean Front Walk bike share station. You'll be assigned a bike and asked to sign a waiver as a part of the registration process. Sign ups are first come first served, so don't miss out. We'll have 100 bikes for the ride. Limit 1 bike per person. Must present I.D. at check-in. Don't forget to bring your helmet! [RSVP here.](#)

Westside Senior Health and Wellness Fair

Mike is proud to host the Westside Senior Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, September 16 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at West Los Angeles Civic Center Plaza, 1645 Corinth Ave, West LA CA 90025. The fair will feature free screenings, entertainment, giveaways, food and refreshments. Ample free parking available in the City parking lot at the northwest corner of Corinth and Iowa. For more info, contact Los Angeles City Health Commissioner for CD11 Ron Kato at cd11healthcommissioner@gmail.com or my deputy Len Nguyen at len.nguyen@lacity.org or 310-575-8461.

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***For more about Mike and Council District 11, please
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